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REF: STATE 41148

1. FBIS S-03658 GIVES TEXT OF TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF SECURITY GENERAL LINH QUANG VIEN IN WHICH VIEN DISCUSSES GVN SECURITY PREPARATIONS FOR SEPT 11 ELECTIONS. PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW IS TO REASSURE PROSPECTIVE VOTERS THAT, AS VIEN SAYS, "OUR MEASURES INCLUDE ALL PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO PROTEST VOTERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY."

2. WE WILL CHECK TO SEE THAT INTERVIEW BEING GIVEN PROPER DISSEMINATION, BUT ASSUME THIS TO BE CASE SINCE VIEN SAYS THAT GVN HAS "DECIDED TO ALLOW WIDESPREAD INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON SECURITY QUESTIONS..... TO SHOW ITS FRANK AND CLEAR POLICY."
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zenon DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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SUBJ: CA ELECTIONS: LONG KHANH PROVINCE.

1. MOST LIKELY WINNER IN NGUYEN MINH DANG, A SAIGON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER. DANG, A CATHOLIC REFUGEE, IS A POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE LUC LONG DAI DOAN KET (GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCE), PRINCIPAL NORTHERN CATHOLIC LAY ORGANIZATION, AND APPEARS TO HAVE THE LONG KHANH CLERGY IN HIS CAMP. LONG KHANH HAS SUBSTANTIAL CATHOLIC MAJORITY. NEARLY ALL ARE REFUGEES FROM NORTH, COMPRISING 65 PERCENT OF POPULATION.

2. FOUR OF THE REMAINING SIX CANDIDATES ARE ALSO NORTH VIETNAMESE CATHOLICS. ONLY TRAN TRUNG TRIET, AND LE TAO, HOWEVER, POSE THREAT TO DANG.

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5236 C O N F I D E N T I A L

3. TRIET, 63 IS ORIENTIAL PHYSICIAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCE COUNCIL. HE IS ALLEGEDLY BACKED BY POWERFUL PROVINCE CHIEF LT COL TRAN VAN DO BECAUSE DO CAN MANIPULATE HIM. PROVINCE INTELLIGENTIA LIKE TRIET PERSONALLY, BUT TAKE A DIM VIEW OF HIS CANDIDACY; HE IS CONSIDERED UNEDUCATED AND SLIGHTLY SENILE.

4. TAO, AN ARVN MAJOR, IS DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND DOCUMENTS IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. SAID TO HAVE LAW DEGREE. HAS SOME BACKING AMONG MILITARY AND MONTAGNARD VOTERS BUT HAS NOT IMPRESSED CATHOLIC PREISTS.

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5. BUDDHIST DANG CAO THANH, NATIVE OF CENTRAL VIET-NAM, SHOULD WIN SUPPORT OF MOST CO-RELIGIONISTS, (25-30 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE) AND COULD SNEAK THROUGH IF CATHOLIC VOTE SUFFICIENTLY DIVIDED AMONG FIVE CATHOLIC CANDIDATES. THANH OWNS TAILOR SHOP IN PROVINCE CAPITAL.

6. CATHOLICS DINH CONG NGHIEP AND NGUYEN VAN THAN AND PROTESTANT VO VAN HIEP ARE VERY LIGHTLY REGARDED.

7. LONG KANH'S APPROXIMATELY 50,000 REGISTERED VOTERS INCLUDE ABOUT 4,000 MONTAGNARDS, MOSTLY NUNG, AND 7,000 MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS. MEN SLIGHTLY OUTNUMBER WOMEN. PROVINCE POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 150,000, MOST OF WHOM, AND ESPECIALLY WORKERS ON PROVINCE'S THREE LARGE RUBBER PLANTATIONS, ARE HARASSED BY STRONG VIET CONG ORGANIZATION. LODGE

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SEPT 5

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: PHU BON PROVINCE

1. PHU BON WILL ELECT ONE VIETNAMESE AND ONE MONTAGNARD DEPUTY ON SEPTEMBER 11. PROVINCE HAS 18,837 REGISTERED VOTERS (DOWN FROM LAST YEAR'S 23,323), INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 4,400 VIETNAMESE. BALANCE ARE MONTAGNARDS, MOSTLY OF JARAI TRIBE. MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE CHOSEN BY "ELECTORAL COLLEGE" SYSTEM, AND MONTGANARDS WILL VOTE IN VIETNAMESE ELECTION.

2. FOUR CANDIDATES ORIGINALLY FILED FOR VIETNAMESE SEAT, INCLUDING ONE CIVIL SERVANT, TWO MILITARY OFFICERS, AND CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. MILITARY OFFICERS WITHDREW (POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEIR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED LATE IN FIRST PLACE). LE TRA, CHAIRMAN OF

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, DID LIKEWISE, CITING OLD AGE, LACK OF ABILITY, AND DESIRE TO STAY IN PHU BON AS REASONS FOR HIS DECISION. SOLE REMAINING CANDIDATE IS NGUYEN HUU CHUNG, 27 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF KIEN HOA AND FOR PAST TWO YEARS CHIEF OF FORESTRY SERVICE IN PHU BON. HE IS 1963 GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON AND CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN LEADING MEMBER OF STUDENT STRUGGLE AGAINST DIEM (POINT WHICH HE ADVERTISES IN CAMPAIGN LITERATURE). TAKING PROPERLY RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD RACE, CHUNG LEFT PHU BON ON SEPTEMBER 2 TO SPEND MOST OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD IN SAIGON.

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3. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES SLIGHTLY EMBARASSED AT PAUCITY OF CANDIDATES (LAM DONG ONLY OTHER PROVINCE WITH ONE CANDIDATE), AND HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME HECKLING DURING THEIR ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION TO PEOPLE. PROVINCE CHIEF, LT COL NGO NAN DONG, NONETHELESS HOPEFUL THAT LARGE PERCENTAGE OF PHU BON'S MOSTLY MONTAGNARD ELECTORATE WILL GO TO POLLS.

4. MONTAGNARD ELECTION MORE INTERESTING WITH FOUR CANDIDATES INVOLVED: MILITARY OFFICER SERVING IN QUI

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 5237 C O N F I D E N T I A L

NHON, TWO MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, AND ONE FULRO CANDIDATE FROM BAN ME THUOT. AT LEAST THREE OF FOUR ARE JARAI, AND ALL ARE NATIVES OF PHU BON, A JARAI STRONGHOLD.

5. ACCORDING TO PROVINCE CHIEF AND DEPUTY FOR ADMINISTRATION, STRONGEST CANDIDATES WILL BE RCOM PHOAN, 26, PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER, AND R'MAH CHRAI, 36, ARVN LIEUTENANT. THEY ENJOY PRESTIGE OF THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS AND ARE YOUNG AND VIGOROUS. SECOND PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR IN FIELD IS RAHLAN-DOAN, 60. DOAN IS REPORTEDLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RUNNING AND IS NOT LIKELY TO WIN.

6. FULRO CANDIDATE IS KSOR ROT, 29, PRESENTLY LIVING IN BAN ME THUOT. COL DONG DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM, BUT THINKS HE NON-JARAI AND POSSIBLY MAJOR IN FULRO. ACCORDING TO DONG, ROT DOESN'T HAVE CHANCE BECAUSE "PEOPLE OF PHU BON DON'T LIKE FULRO". FULRO HAS BEEN QUIESCENT SINCE FIRST OF YEAR BUT IS PROBABLY MORE OF FORCE THAN DONG WILLING TO ADMIT. HOWEVER, SINCE ROT HAS BEEN OUT OF PROVINCE FOR SOME TIME, AND

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 5237 C O N F I D E N T I A L

IF HE NOT JARAI, HIS CHANCES WOULD SEEM TO BE DIMINISHED. COL DONG NOT QUITE RECONCILED TO FACT OF FULRO MEMBER RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN HIS PROVINCE: "IF HE HAD COME HERE TWO MONTHS AGO, HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED." (THIRTY-FIVE VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS IN PROVINCE WERE KILLED IN DECEMBER 1965 FULRO UPRISING).

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7. MONTAGNARD CAMPAIGN PERIOD WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 5 (FOLLOWING EXTENSION OF FILING DATE TO AUGUST 30 FOR FULRO AND SEPTEMBER 1 FOR NON-FULRO MONTAGNARDS). CHOICE WILL BE MADE BY 342 ELECTORS, WHO WILL BE PAID 200$VN PER DIEM FOR THEIR TROUBLE. LODGE

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